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Message from the Mayor

On June 1, the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) and CVS/pharmacy commemorated their six-year partnership and the opening of the South Capitol One-Stop Career Center and the CVS Regional Learning Center with a rededication ceremony, reception and community open house.

The event was held at the center, located at 4049 South Capitol Street, SW. Following the ceremony, guest speaker Stedman Graham conducted a leadership workshop for area youths entitled, *Teens Can Make it Happen*.

The event marks a successful six-year public-private collaboration that has provided employment and training to more than 2,000 District residents. The District's South Capitol Street One-Stop Career Center was the first One-Stop Center to co-locate with a CVS Regional Learning Center. Set up like a typical CVS/pharmacy store, the facility allows participants to learn all aspects of managing and maintaining the store under the tutelage of an experienced job trainer. This successful national model has been duplicated in six other cities, including Baltimore, Md., Atlanta, Ga., and Cleveland, Ohio.

At the event, Ebony Harris, a CVS pharmacy technician apprentice trained at the South Capitol Street CVS Regional Learning Center, shared how the learning center enabled her to gain the skills she needed to obtain a better job.

It's very gratifying when a public-private partnership benefits our community. By partnering with a one-stop center, the company has improved its recruitment and employee training, resulting in higher retention rates for CVS/pharmacy and solid career options for many local residents. The rededication also showcased the need for more corporate partnerships that offer jobs and training opportunities for District residents.

The South Capitol Street One-Stop Career Center is one of seven DOES One-Stop Career Centers, located throughout the city. The centers assist residents and local business owners with all of their employment needs.

Here's an example of a new resource available free of charge at any of the One-Stop Centers – it is called the Employment Guidebook: Careers in Health. This report offers job seekers information on various career options and working conditions as well as occupational projects and forecasts for the health care industry. The health care industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the nation with more job openings in this region than qualified workers to fill them. According to labor market projections, there will be a 25 percent increase in the number of health care jobs by the year 2010.

For additional information on the South Capitol Street One-Stop Career Center or any of the One-Stop Centers, call 202-724-7000.



AGENCY WEBSITES

Department of Human
Services

Office of Tax and
Revenue

Department of Parks and
Recreation

Department of
Employment Services

Metropolitan Police
Department

Office of Boards and
Commissions

Commission on the Arts
and Humanities

LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and
Tourism

DC Public Library

New Administrator for MRDDA

On Tuesday, June 6, I announced the appointment of Kathy Elmore Sawyer as acting administrator for the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration (MRDDA). Ms. Sawyer has worked in the field of mental retardation and developmental disabilities for more than 30 years and is well respected throughout the country for her dedication, her compassion and her vision.

We are lucky to have found someone of Ms. Sawyer's reputation and ability at this challenging and pivotal time for MRDDA. She is a proven leader and reformer. I am certain we'll see noticeable improvements at the agency in a very short time so that we can treat our most vulnerable citizens with the decency and respect that they deserve.

My hope is that Ms. Sawyer will be able to provide immediate stability to MRDDA and can reassure the court and the lawyers for our clients that receivership is not the right choice at this time. Placing the agency into receivership would benefit nobody but the lawyers and would place a whole new layer of bureaucratic red tape around the department.

Ms. Sawyer developed a national reputation as the Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, a position she held from 1999 through 2005. In her first year as commissioner, Ms. Sawyer reached a court-approved settlement of a law suit that spanned 33 years and 14 commissioners.

While leading the department out of litigation, Ms. Sawyer also reformed practice and implemented measures to establish operating efficiencies, resulting in millions of dollars of savings to the state. Overseeing a budget in excess of \$600 million, Ms. Sawyer was responsible for the overall administration and management of all state in-patient facilities as well as community contracted and certified programs for mental retardation, mental health and substance abuse services. Prior to serving as Commissioner, Ms. Sawyer was the Director of Advocacy Services at the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation for 15 years, where she was responsible for the design and implementation of the Statewide Internal Rights and Advocacy Program for persons served by the department and its contracted programs.

Since she retired as Commissioner in 2005, Ms. Sawyer has been in demand as a consultant across the country. She has provided contract services to the District, and is fully aware of the issues and challenges facing MRDDA. She has also consulted with the Governor's Finance Office for the State of Alabama, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the National Center for Women, among others. She also sits on numerous boards and commissions directed at improving the lives of persons with mental retardation and persons with mental health issues. Her work and advocacy is widely recognized. This year, she received the Mental Health Consumers of Alabama Outstanding Leadership Award. In the last ten years, Ms. Sawyer has been recognized and awarded for her work by more than 25 organizations.

Ms. Sawyer received both her Bachelor of Science in Social Work and her Master of Social Work at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Savannah Heights Is Latest New Affordable Housing Development in Ward 8

In a continuing effort to promote the production of the affordable housing in Washington, on Thursday, June 1, city officials stood with residents and local housing professionals to celebrate the completion of one of the latest newly-constructed affordable apartment complexes in the city.

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Savannah Heights Apartments; however, my deputy mayor for planning and economic development, Stan Jackson, ably stood in for me. The ceremony officially opened 100 newly constructed rental apartments all of which are affordable for residents earning less than 60 percent of the Area Median Income, which is \$56,000 for a family of four.

The three garden-style buildings are located at the corner of Savannah and Fourth Streets, SE in Congress Heights. The apartment buildings have the appearances of townhouses with individual entrances. They offer one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments and several amenities, including a tot-lot, off street parking, and dishwashers, washers, and driers in every unit.

This project is personally gratifying for me because it addresses the needs of low-income families while it contributes to the vitality of the larger community. Moreover, what made this project especially unique and successful is that the whole development, from conception to completion, was done with the involvement of the entire community. For example, students from Ballou Senior High School participated in the creation and planning of the development.

Individuals interested in the apartments should call the developers' leasing office, AHD, Inc., at 202-561-1788.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

Beat the Heat

Although it's technically still spring, the hot weather has arrived, and on days when the "heat index" reaches 95 degrees, the District government implements a heat emergency plan.

The heat index is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when the effects of humidity are added to high temperature. The city's heat plan was developed by the DC Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with other city and private agencies.

The heat emergency plan allows for cooling centers to open for District residents at One Judiciary Square (441 4th Street, NW) and at the Frank D. Reeves Center (2000 14th Street, NW).

Key components of the city's heat plan include:

- Activation of street showers in selected locations
- Opening of cooling centers in District government buildings and senior citizen facilities
- Extension of public swimming pool hours to 9 pm
- Distribution of fans to special needs population.

For more information on beating the heat, go to dcema.dc.gov.

Residents Notified of Seasonal Grass-Cutting Rules

Did you know that uncut grass could cost you \$500? Each year, from May 1 through October 31 the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs enforces "seasonal grass-cutting" rules.

Grass and weeds that are more than 10 inches long could result in a fine for the property owner. During growing seasons, commercial and residential property owners are required to maintain their lawns free of trash and excessive grass growth.

Grass pollen is a common trigger of asthma and other allergies. Keeping grass cut can be a part of an overall preventative strategy to control respiratory illness. On the other hand, excessive growth can harbor rats and other dangerous pests leading to serious public health risks.

DCRA regulations cover all types of vegetative growth including kudzu, poison ivy, plants with obnoxious odors, weeds, grasses causing hay fever, and any weed growth that creates a breeding place for mosquitoes. Regulations require that these weeds not be in place for more than seven days. Some typical weeds include poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac and all vegetation that matches the following characteristics:

- Exceeds ten inches in height, is untended, or creates a dense area of shrubbery that is a detriment to the health, safety and welfare of the public;
- Regardless of height, creates a harbor for pests or persons, or a concealment for refuse or trash;
- Develops into deposits or accumulation of refuse or trash;
- Harbors rodents and insects by providing them refuge;
- Creates an unpleasant or noxious odor;
- Constitutes a fire hazard; or
- Contains grass or weeds that are dead or diseased.

Penalties and fines may be imposed on the owner if these requirements are not met. Residents may report violations and request grass- and weed-cutting services by calling 202-442-4400 or by visiting the online Service Request Center at src.dc.gov.



District Activities



Deputy Mayor Stan Jackson and Councilmember Marion Barry joined with residents and local housing professionals to celebrate the completion of the latest newly constructed affordable apartment complex in Ward 8.



Mayor Williams and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice deliver remarks and present a proclamation at the 2006 Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure on the National Mall.

Community News

- [Mayor Praises Council for Approval of Crime Bill](#)
- [Mayor Expresses Disappointment with Reduced Homeland Security Funding Level for District](#)
- [Mayor Urges Residents to Take Small Steps to Reduce Global Warming](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

6/10	Kids' Extravalooza '06 4 pm — 7 pm L'Enfant Plaza 10th Street, SW
6/11	Capital Pride Street Festival 11:30 am — 7 pm Pennsylvania Avenue, between 3rd and 7th Streets
6/15	DC Housing Finance Agency Blood Drive 10 am — 3 pm 1st Floor, Auditorium 815 Florida Avenue, NW For more information, call (202) 777-1660
6/18	2nd Annual DC Juneteenth Celebration and Music Festival 12 pm — 5 pm African American Civil War Memorial U Street and Vermont Avenue, NW
6/21	Kick-Off for summer programs in DC Noon Turkey Thicket Recreational Center 1100 Michigan Avenue, NE
7/6	Homebuying Basics Seminar 12:30 pm — 1:30 pm 9th Floor Boardroom 801 North Capitol Street, NE

